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6 November 1947

FROM : Information Control, OSO  
COUNTRY : Yugoslavia  
SUBJECT : Air Arm for the International Brigades  
INFORMATION DATE:  
EVALUATION : This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. An independent flying center with the code-name INF was set up five weeks ago at Sombor, the headquarters of the 4th Bomber Division of the Yugoslav Air Force.
2. This INF center is primarily intended for training international flying personnel destined for service on the Greek front. It has large stores for spare parts as well as extensive repair shops, all located on the air field of the 4th Division of the Yugoslav Air Force.
3. INF has a flying school at Novi Sad, while instruction is given in aerial combat over mountainous territory at Fruska Gora. Only experienced flying personnel are trained for this purpose.
4. The INF commander is a Soviet officer by the name of Shumilin who wears the uniform of a Hungarian Colonel. In his Hungarian papers the name is spelt Shumli; his first name is probably Aleksander since he is known to his friends as "Sashka". Shumilin is also Chief of Aviation for the International Brigades.
5. On 12 August 1947 a large transport of YAK-9 fighter aircraft and spares arrived by land route at Sombor. The transport was accompanied by Gashin, a Soviet officer who wears the uniform of a major in the Polish Army. Gashin, who is a Soviet fighter ace, is known to have arrived from Poland (where he was chief instructor for fighter pilots) to become Shumilin's deputy, but left again for Poland on 17 August to conduct another transport. His place as deputy is temporarily occupied by Zurkanyer, a Hungarian Air Force major.